

THE
BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL
JOURNAL.

VOL. XXI.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1839.

No. 19.

CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS ON DR. DURKEE'S "REMARKS ON SCROFULA."

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

WHY should not a medical writer be reviewed, as well as a literary writer? Pathology and therapeutics are certainly important studies, and even a superficial observer sees that right views concerning them are of immense value as respects their bearing on society. It has been well said, by a distinguished writer of the present day, that "the medical writers of our age are quite superior to the writers of any other profession. They are more learned, more faithful, and altogether better writers." Now if our medical writers possess all this superiority, and I, for one, am willing to accord it to them, it is important that they retain it. To secure this desirable result, will it not be well that medical writers have an eye to the productions of their fellows, after the manner of writers in the literary world? And will not praise and blame, judiciously administered, have a salutary effect? It may be said that therapeutic, rather than prophylactic, means should be used by the physician. But it is surely better to prevent the evils which might be caused by injudicious theses, than to undertake to cure them when they are caused.

I have fallen into this train of reflections by reading "Remarks on Scrofula" in the Journal, from the pen of Dr. Durkee, of Lynn, Mass. Much labor is bestowed in delineating the characteristics of the disease and the theriacal means on which we are to rely for a cure. This is in many respects an able paper, and yet the learned doctor must not take it amiss if, after awarding him a due measure of praise, I rap him over the knuckles for a part of his communication.

I am free to acknowledge that, as a medical man and as a writer, Dr. D. has great merit. There is a neatness and purity in his style that delight the reader. We feel that though he labors in the rugged field of therapeutics, he is not a stranger to the music of fountains or the fragrance of flowers. But the article is learned enough, in all conscience. Medical writers seem sometimes to need the advice once given by a tutor in college to one of his pupils, who labored for language to make himself misunderstood. "I advise you," said the tutor, "to study the English language." Being a mere tyro in medical knowledge, compared with Dr. D., I beg leave to propose a few questions which were suggested to my mind by reading his "Remarks."

In the first place, is not pathological science deemed more mysterious

than it really is? And is not the doctor rather too willing to stay in the land of shadows—in other words, to consider himself in the *terra incognita* of pathological science? Truth is simple; and though it may be said, with much justice and beauty, of scrofula, that “its insidious blight is everywhere seen, although it especially delights to revel in the arms of beauty and to luxuriate with indiscriminate wantonness amid the fairest and loveliest of our race,” yet is there really an elective power in the disease, or will morbid causes produce the disorder, whether the patient be beautiful or ugly? This seems to be the plain, unpoetical view of the case. In giving the characteristics of scrofula, the doctor has shown himself an accurate and careful observer. I recently attended a post-mortem examination of an infant who had died of scrofula. The mesenteric glands were a mass of tubercles. The appetite had been voracious—the stomach had been distended till it was nearly transparent. The body was almost entirely bloodless. The brain, lungs and pancreas were studded with tubercles. Much of the brain was in a state of *ramollissement*. This was a case of hereditary scrofula, evidently from the father, showing conclusively that a subtle virus may be communicated, causing this disease, as well as syphilis. Still, unless the system is deeply infected with the virus, have we not reason to believe that proper management with respect to diet and regimen may eradicate the taint. I know a practitioner runs the risk, in these days, of being dubbed a Grahamite, if he recommends the antiphlogistic regimen in any case, or if he dare dissent from the long received opinion that “animal food is more nutritive and stimulating than vegetable; that is, that the same quantity of the former will make more and richer blood, and will satisfy the demands of the digestive organs for a longer period, than the latter.” Now I, for one, will not surrender the right of private judgment, through fear that I shall be ranked with this or that class of real or supposed fanatics.

We have these statements respecting animal food, and we are to receive them on the *ipse dixit* of Dr. Durkee! It is not incumbent upon me to prove a negative. I shall not attempt it. But I should be obliged to this able writer if he would bring forth his *strong reasons* in support of his positions. It is conceded by all, that meagre diet of any kind has a tendency to produce scrofula. It has been my lot to mark the effects of a well-regulated vegetable diet in a number of cases of scrofula—cases of long standing and of a marked bad character. My experience in these cases has *not* demonstrated that a mixed diet was best. I am not about to say there are no cases of a character to demand animal food. But in every case that has come under my observation, of hereditary or induced scrofula, where a well-regulated vegetable aliment has been used, it has been with advantage. In several instances a decided improvement and ultimate cure was obtained by abstaining even from milk. Dr. D. bestows unqualified commendation upon milk. His remarks would be just, if he would make suitable qualifications. He speaks of diminished strength as a consequence of a strictly vegetable diet. I have seen some of the finest specimens of athleta who lived upon an exclusively vegetable diet—not even partaking of milk; and I think I should

not be haunted with fears of diminished strength, if I could make up my mind to abstain from animal food.

The remarks of Dr. D. with respect to hygienic discipline—bathing, pure air, exercise, proper clothing, attention to diet, are worthy of all praise. Such views, from medical men, will do more to prevent scrofula than all our specifics will to cure it. Ought we not to be impressed with the belief that prophylactic means are worth infinitely more than therapeutic? When mothers become enlightened on the subject of physical education—when pure air, exercise, the use of the bath and a proper attention to the diet of children—shall become as common as the neglect of these several particulars now is, may we not hope to see scrofula decrease as rapidly as it has increased for a few years past? Would it not be profitable to inquire how far the compression which is exerting its influence on the nervous tissues, the circulatory system, and directly on the spinal column, has an effect to derange the normal functions of the system and to produce scrofula? The closing remarks of Dr. D. should be stereotyped on the soul of every practitioner. Whatever errors may be found in his essay, it is unquestionably a production of a high order.

A. B.

Dec., 1839.

TRANSYLVANIA AND LOUISVILLE MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

PERHAPS I can afford some intelligence for your Journal respecting the western medical schools.

Ten days since the Louisville Institute had 180 pupils. The acquisition of Dr. Drake, it is generally thought, has swelled the number. He is quite popular at present, both with the class and the citizens of Louisville; but I am afraid, from all I can learn, that he is looked upon by some of the faculty with a jealous eye. I hope this may turn out nothing but rumor, and that the doctor will profit by the experience of the past and live in brotherly love with his associates.

You are aware that I am an admirer of Dr. Drake. I was his private pupil for two years, and I profess to have some knowledge of his character, both as a medical man and a private individual. And to speak with candor, I am disposed to acquit him entirely of all the malice and wickedness with which he has been accused. I can account, satisfactorily, I think, for the many disturbances which he has created. He is naturally restless and ambitious, watchful of his reputation, and eager to stand at the head of the lists. He is one of the pioneers of western medicine—one of the first who engaged in medical education west of the mountains. With these facts in view, must it not be acknowledged that his opinions of "men and manners" should be entitled to the highest respect? Should he not be regarded with reverence? And when his advice upon any measure connected with the weal of the profession is given, ought it not to be listened to with serious attention? To all of these queries I know every rational and unprejudiced mind

will give an affirmative answer. But how has he been regarded ? With universal respect ? No ; with *jealousy, envy* and *hatred*. His zeal in the cause of medical science has led him to the projection of many noble schemes, which have, perhaps, often been opposed by his medical brethren, and the various means which, from time to time, he has used for the advancement of learning, and the attainment of his objects, have not always been such as to please the public. Here, you may see, there are two ways in which his innocence can be made evident. His course, in general, may be correct, and the public in the wrong ; or his course may be wrong or defective (his mind, at the same time, convinced of rectitude of intention), and the public, or a specified body of men, instead of administering mild rebuke, rise up in open indignation, and endeavor by all means to trample him under foot.

To return to the Louisville school. If the faculty will "be sure they are right," they will "go ahead;" but if they disagree among themselves, they will be apt to blow up with a tremendous explosion.

The Medical College of Ohio has a class of about 120, and her friends are very sanguine in the belief that she will prosper.

The Transylvania school has a class of 240. The new medical hall is not yet completed, but will be finished the ensuing spring or summer. The additions made to the library, apparatus, &c., by the importations of Professors Peter and Bush, are such as to enhance the value of instruction, and I have no question of the school's prosperity. B.

PHRENOLOGY—EXPLANATORY NOTE.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

MY DEAR DOCTOR,—From what I have said in the second paragraph of my lecture on phrenology not opposed to the principles of religion nor the doctrines of christianity—"that by a free inter-communication of belief—whenever a fit opportunity presents—the cause of true religion is ultimately advanced ;" but more especially from our long acquaintance, and the mutually good understanding that has always existed between us, I am confident you will consider the following remarks on your denunciation of the sixteen last lines of my lecture alluded to above, are dictated by no unfriendly spirit. They would have been more definite did I understand precisely the import of your remark.

In the early part of my life I was instructed in the principles of orthodoxy, taught the shorter catechism of the Westminster Confession of Faith, and sat under the preaching of a Calvinistic preacher ; and, therefore, without arrogance, may claim to possess some knowledge of the tenets of Calvin. This religious sect esteems the Messiah to have two natures—the divine and human ;—this distinction they consider to be essential in the explanation of the grand scheme of salvation ; and, therefore, frequently make it the theme of their discourses. They also believe the Messiah to be the second Adam, and that by the fall of the first Adam all died ; but by the death of the second all were made alive.

Hence the deduction is conclusive, that, as in the state of innocence Adam was made but a little lower than the angels, and, of course, possessed intellectual faculties of the highest grade, it is not too great an assumption to suppose, that, in his human nature, "the powers of the mind of the Messiah" were equal to the former. At any rate, any comment—consistent with the character of a perfect man—is not inadmissible, but may be justified by the practice of divines in their discourses, whenever the eucharist is consecrated—as on such occasions the whole tenor of their discourses represents him as having the infirmities, and subject to the sufferings natural to humanity. It was my design, in the whole passage alluded to above, to speak of him in his human character. I must, however, confess I spoke of his person in conformity to the generally received opinion. This, perhaps, is an error, as in Isaiah, chap. liii., verse 2, and in corresponding passages in the Old and New Testament, he is described as having "no comeliness; and whenever we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire to see him."

The foundation of my religion, as well as the religion of the Calvinists, is, that there is "but one only, the living and true God."

You kindly remind and caution me, that I am treading on subterranean fire. What though the eruptive column of the volcano rises to the skies; the flood of error it sheds may for a time dazzle and bewilder the multitude. What though I am overwhelmed in the lava, or buried in the ashes, or stifled in the smoke! The period must arrive when it must be utterly extinguished; while the sun of truth will rise higher and higher, and spread its rays wider and wider, until all the nations of the earth shall feel its enlightening influence, look up and adore it.

That you may not misapprehend the object of the closing paragraph of my lecture, I feel bound to give you the above explanation.

Boston, Dec. 7, 1839.

Yours, truly,

WILLIAM INGALLS.

PROFESSIONAL SLANDER.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I attended, a short time since, a lecture before our Lyceum, by a Rev. gentleman (Mr. Harris, of Lynn), an expression or two in which, I think worthy of notice. The subject of the lecture was, "The house we live in."

After some sensible remarks upon the laws of the human constitution, their fixedness, the certainty of the penalty following their violation; and upon diet, clothing, and regimen in general, such as may be found in almost any of the popular treatises on physiology, &c., he came out with his whole artillery against the medical profession; and if he did not utterly annihilate it, it was not for want of a will and an effort. He warned his audience, with an earnestness and an eloquence that would be well worthy of one standing "between the living and the dead," "to avoid the doctors and their medicines," assuring them that there

was "not one case in twenty in which they did not do more hurt than good"—that, "though *some* of them were honest men, such was their knowledge of diseases, derived, as it was, almost entirely from foreign books, they were altogether unqualified to treat those of this country and climate, and consequently *must* do more injury than good," &c. Now all this I should not deem worth noticing, as, probably, the gentleman knew no better, and ignorance is to be winked at; but as a proof of his assertions, he stated that in a recent interview with one of the first physicians of the medical faculty (a resident of Boston, I think, whose name, however, he was not at liberty to give, as the conversation was confidential), he "inquired of him what he thought of the profession, and what proportion of them he had any confidence in, and would be willing to entrust a sick friend of his with; and the reply was, "*not more than one in ten.*" He then triumphantly inquired of his audience, "what, then, must be thought of the character and practice of a faculty, one of the best of whose members should make such a statement, such an admission as this?"

That such an expression might have been made, perhaps it does not become me to question; but what could have occasioned it? Was it because the medical gentleman had no confidence in himself, and consequently had none in his brethren? certainly not, if he was "one of the first in the profession." Was it in order, as is sometimes the case, to build up his own reputation, and secure his own emolument at the expense of that of others? by no means, and for the same reason as above. Was it because he really had no more confidence in his brethren, and did indeed consider them thus unqualified for the duties of their profession? I cannot suppose it; for were he possessed of a particle of honesty, rather than number himself with such a *posse* of ignoramuses and charlatans, not to use harsher terms, he would turn scavenger at once. Or was it simply to *hoax* the inquisitive gentleman? This, doubtless, was the case. But can he be justified in making such a statement, even for such a purpose? I think not; and probably it would not have been made had he been aware that he was furnishing a text for a sermon calculated to do much injury—not to the pecuniary interest of the profession, for so long as people are sick they will call for the doctor, and none are more ready to do it than those who declaim the loudest against them, of which fact, the lecturer himself, from his own remarks, is a good proof—but by weakening that confidence in well-educated physicians to which they are entitled, and which it is absolutely essential they should receive from their patients in order to their successful treatment of many diseases.

Leaving each one, whom it may concern, to make his own comments, I would ask, is it not very desirable for the weal of the community, as well as for the honor of the profession, that there should be less frequent cause to complain of such heedlessness of expressions, to say the least, in our medical brethren?

Yours, truly,

Annisquam, Mass., Dec. 7, 1839.

A. D. BACON.

TREATMENT OF STINGS, POISONOUS BITES, &c.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR.—I feel under much obligation to Dr. Mettauer, for the communication of his experience of the efficacy of ice, as a remedy for the stings of poisonous insects. There can be but little doubt that it might prove equally efficacious, could it be instantly applied, in case of the bite of venomous serpents, and, perhaps, of rabid animals. The misfortune is, however, that in a vast majority of cases, in ordinary country practice, no ice is at hand. In this situation, the best application, which I have been in the habit of making, is laudanum. In common stings of wasps, bees or hornets, the part affected should be kept wet with laudanum, and pretty smart friction be applied at the same time. In this way all pain is usually removed in ten or fifteen minutes, and little or no distention follows.

In violent cases, where the whole system is affected, opium, taken internally, probably affords the surest and speediest relief. In the bites of venomous reptiles, it seems to approach nearer to a specific than any other article. About fifteen years ago, Judge Tappan, of Stubenville, Ohio, when on a visit to New England, informed me that, some time previous, his hired man came home in the greatest agony and distress, from the bite of a rattlesnake. It was an hour or two before a physician could be obtained; and as the case was so urgent as to threaten the sudden extinction of life, the judge undertook to prescribe himself. He gave the man, if I rightly recollect, a teaspoonful of laudanum, and repeated the dose two or three times, within, perhaps, an hour. The result was, that all the threatening symptoms soon yielded, and the patient was apparently out of all danger before the physician arrived.

From the best of testimony, there can be but little doubt that alcohol, both externally and internally, is nearly or quite as efficacious a remedy, in cases of stings and bites, as opium. It is said that a drunken Indian has been frequently known to allow himself to be bitten by a rattlesnake, with impunity.

It is very obvious, however, that the injury and danger arising from stings and bites, must vary very much, from the part where they are inserted. It is very possible, therefore, that in some cases, where a nerve, tendon or bloodvesssl is hit, extreme danger, or even death, may occur before any remedy can be employed.

It has long appeared to me—and I think my own experience justifies the idea—that we avail ourselves much less of the external application of opium and other narcotic articles, than might be proper. They are often of great service in topical pain of almost every description; and when aided by warmth and friction, or confined by plaster, they are among our surest palliatives.

In cases of vegetable and mineral poisons, it is apprehended that the medical world have often been led astray, and put upon an entirely wrong course, by endeavoring to combat them with specifics. Such poisons produce diseases, which are to be treated on general principles. If they can be speedily evacuated from the stomach, before much injury

is done, little more is necessary. But when they are entirely out of the reach of emetics, cathartics, or the stomach pump, the symptoms are to be met and palliated, just as they ought to be treated in other complaints; and in proportion to their severity, they yield to the same management. In many, perhaps in most cases, the danger seems to arise more from the shock given to the nervous system, than from any chemical or mechanical injury. Arsenic probably operates in both ways; but I am apt to believe, that in poisoning by this article, death ensues from its effect upon the nerves, rather than the inflammation which it excites. I would treat the disease exactly as I would the same symptoms in the alimentary canal, and in the system at large, when they proceed from any other cause, where the peccant matter is out of reach.

Before concluding, I have a suggestion to make as respects Dr. Mettauer's application of ice. Where this article cannot be obtained, could not the same effect be produced by artificial cold, by dropping ether on the part, and letting it evaporate? When the sting is near the eye, the evaporation might be from a rag moistened with ether. It is a happy circumstance that there are several good remedies for the same symptom; and in case of stings, alcohol, ammonia, opium and ice, one or other of them, is generally nigh at hand. A speedy application is of the greatest importance. Since my recollection, I have known of two instances of death from the sting of a bee, within a dozen miles of my residence. It is probable, in both these cases, a draught of alcohol, properly diluted, or a teaspoonful of laudanum, timely administered, might have prevented the fatal event.

SENEX.

CHILBLAINS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—As the season in which this troublesome and painful disease prevails has arrived, a few observations upon it with a remedy attached may not, perhaps, be thought amiss by yourself or your readers.

For an accurate description of the malady and for its causes, I would refer the reader to Samuel Cooper's "First Lines of the Practice of Surgery," Vol. I., page 109. The remedies he there names, too, I should conclude are all good—but one of them, in particular, I have never known to fail of curing in a very short time, in whatever state the disease may be—whether that of inflammation, suppuration or gangrene. I refer to the linimentum ammoniæ. It is prepared by mixing half a fluid ounce of water of ammonia with two fluid ounces of olive oil.* Let this be frequently applied to the affected part.

I have already said that I have never known this remedy to fail. I have seen persons cured with one ounce of this mixture, who had had the complaint to a very painful degree every winter for many years.

Respectfully yours,

Unionville, Mass., Dec. 8, 1839.

E. G. WHEELER.

* United States Pharmacopœia.

EXPERIMENTS WITH SMALLPOX.

ON the first of February, 1839, Mr. Ceeley inoculated with smallpox matter (*variola discreta*), of the seventh or eighth day, three young heifers; a fourth was at the same time vaccinated.

Mr. Ceeley made seven punctures, and introduced fourteen points near the left *labium pudendi*, and on the same day inserted two setons with matter from the same subject. On the ninth day after this process, he vaccinated the same animal on the right *labium pudendi*, with fifth, sixth and seventh day's lymph from a child, in seven punctures, with fourteen points; and below the pudendum in four punctures, with eight points. On the tenth day after the insertion of the variolous matter, one of the punctures near the posterior margin of the left *labium pudendi* had assumed the form of the natural vaccine vesicle. By gently removing the central irregular crust, and carefully puncturing the cuticle, he was able, in the course of an hour, to charge thirty-eight points with lymph, and on the same and subsequent days to use part of it on children and adults. On the thirteenth day the smallpox vesicle was more inflamed and florid; this was the fifth day after the insertion of vaccine lymph, at which time all the eleven punctures were converted into effec-tual vesicles; from these he took fine, clear lymph, and used it on children and adults. Both the variolous and vaccine vesicles subsequently ran nearly a parallel course; so that on the twenty-sixth day of the former, and the seventeenth day of the latter, the scars of both appeared perfectly similar.

To obviate objections which might arise from the insertion of the vaccine lymph on the ninth day after the inoculation with the variolous matter, Mr. Ceeley re-inoculated a sturk on the 15th of February with smallpox matter, of the seventh or eighth day, on the *labium pudendi*. He made eight punctures, which were deluged with the variolous fluid from the capillary tubes. On the fifth day the four upper punctures were enlarged and elevated; the other four were less so. On the sixth day all presented the appearance of the vaccine vesicle. From one of them he took lymph with difficulty, and scantily charged thirty-nine points. On the eighth day he again took lymph from the vesicle opened on the sixth. On the ninth day the vesicles were enlarging, and he again opened carefully the first vesicle and charged twenty points. On the tenth day the four lower vesicles were increasing, and from them he charged twenty-seven points. After this time the brown crusts appeared, and the disease gradually declined. This animal was subsequently inoculated, both with variolous and vaccine matter, but no result followed.—*Report of the Vaccination Section of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.*

Experiments, by Henry H. Rugg, Surgeon, London.—During the last three years, whenever an opportunity presented itself, I have tried to establish the fact that the pox, which occurs spontaneously on the cow, is the same disease as that which occurs to the human subject, and which we denominate *variola* or *smallpox*. The means which I have

taken to arrive at this conclusion, are exceedingly simple, and may have been tried by others before me ; but, if so, I do not think they have been published.

Having a patient, laboring under variola, I took some virus therefrom, and inoculated a cow's udder. On the sixth day, I took some lymph from the cow, and vaccinated a child, two years of age, therewith. On the third day this produced the vaccine vesicle, and at the fifth day came to maturity. I have frequently tried the experiment since, and with like success. The characteristics generally noticed, when a child is vaccinated with lymph procured in this manner, are—the vesicle is sooner formed, sooner comes to perfection, and there is greater irritation and inflammation around the pustule. These peculiarities gradually diminish, according to the number of individuals through whom the virus pours afterwards ; and hence I consider the more recent the matter is taken from the cow, the greater security will there be against the individual vaccinated having the smallpox in its more malignant form, if he should happen to have it at all.

I was led to perform these experiments from having seen the cowpox go through all its proper stages in a person, who was vaccinated two days previous to the smallpox making its appearance on him ; and imagining that two dissimilar eruptive diseases could not happen in the same person at once, I considered that the pox as it exists in the cow was the same disease as the smallpox in a milder form.—*Lancet.*

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

An elaborate and highly interesting report of recent cases of smallpox in the parish of Chelsea, England, by Dr. W. B. Marshall, was inserted in a late No. of the *Lancet*. Some of the facts we shall condense and publish, as they are peculiarly interesting at the present time.

Of 129 deaths from smallpox that took place between May 1, 1838, and April 30, 1839, 124 took place in the families of the poor and indigent, while only 9 happened in the houses of persons even two removes from absolute poverty and indigence. In 30 cases no professional assistance was had. The families of 114 of the fatal cases consisted of 592 members. Of these only 175 were alleged to have been vaccinated ; whereas, during this or former epidemics, 433 had passed through smallpox. Of the 175 vaccinated, 13 had smallpox subsequently, and one died. Of the 433 smallpox cases, 10 were instances in which the disease occurred twice, and one of the 10 died. Among the unvaccinated cases, one in three was the average mortality.

In extending his inquiries still further, Dr. M. found that of 231 reputed cases of vaccination, without any deduction made for spurious virus or an imperfect operation, only 27 cases of subsequent smallpox are even alleged to have occurred, and of these only 5 were marked by any degree of severity, and but 1 died. Fourteen cases of secondary smallpox were also ascertained, 7 of which were extremely severe, and 3 fatal.

Of the 129 fatal cases first referred to, 56 were under two years of age, and 57 between two and six years. One only of the 129 occurred after vaccination, and 1 also after smallpox.

After the subsidence of the epidemic, it was ascertained that of 757 persons, taken indifferently, being the aggregate number of individuals in the several families who came under official notice, only 7 remained who had neither had vaccinia nor variola. The pestilence, therefore, seemed to be stayed only for the want of victims.

The writer relates a number of instances which came under his observation, showing the security afforded by vaccination. Of these, we have room only for a few :

" Emma Warman was attacked with smallpox, naturally, when two years and a half old, upon which occasion she was attended by the late Mr. Fletcher, who wished to have inoculated a family of children from her. Another sister had the disease at the same time. A third girl, who had been vaccinated twenty years before, was with the two throughout their illness, and escaped the contagion herself. In 1835, or six years after the first attack, Emma was a second time seized with the smallpox, and attended by Mr. Watton, of London. As on the former occasion, she was again nursed by her elder sister, who again escaped untouched, along with another sister, Mary Anne, and a brother, John, who were both vaccinated at the time. The eldest, who had thus escaped the disease twice, under circumstances of peculiar exposure, had been vaccinated when only four months old, and was the subject of five subsequent, but ineffectual, attempts at re-vaccination."

" Sophia Lockyer, 9 years old ; her brother, Frederick, 3½ years ; and her mother, 30 years of age, were all vaccinated respectively in their infancy. During the recent epidemic four cases of smallpox occurred in the family, consisting of eight persons. The father had been inoculated for variola when a child. The whole eight slept in one small room. One of the cases terminated fatally—the patient's carcase being literally in a state of putrefaction. The eldest girl, Sophia, had been his nurse throughout his illness ; neither she, nor her mother, whose breast he was sucking, nor her only vaccinated brother, suffered in any degree from their exposure."

The following case is curious, exhibiting the mysterious connection between mind and matter ?

" William Atkins, ~~at~~ six years, residing in the World's End Passage, had been vaccinated when — years old. This child was playing with his companions, when another boy, covered with smallpox pustules, ran in among them. He was terrified at the sight, and ran home screaming to his mother the whole way, for her to save him. Nothing could assuage his fears. During the night he was evidently dreaming of the spectacle which had crossed him in the day, and talked about it incessantly in his sleep. He awoke with the precursive fever, and, in due time, his whole body was covered with the eruption."

The following is worth copying :

" A case of great interest was brought under my notice while tracing the registered cases of death from smallpox, in which the sucking babe

was vaccinated at the mother's breast while the mother was lying ill of the disease, which eventually deprived her of life, was suffered to suck on, and derive its nourishment from a source tainted at the time with smallpox, and ultimately survived, without contracting the least appearance of the disease of which its mother died, whose milk had been its food, whose arms its cradle, and whose breast its bed, throughout her whole illness."

After relating two cases of much interest, he thus refers to them :

" In the one we see a child escaping from the womb of its mother who is suffering under smallpox. He is free from all external, from all perceptible disease. We mark his progress to manhood and old age, and, tracking his course, we follow him again and again to places infected with variola ; and behold him again and again exposed to its virulence, again and again avoiding its contagion. In the other we see a fond mother and anxious wife, herself protected by the process of vaccination, but doubtful of that protection in her own case, still further alarmed for the safety of her husband and children, trembling, as she beholds the dead carried out day after day, lest the life of her unborn one should be forfeited ; living in fear for days and weeks, while for days and weeks she inhales an atmosphere charged with the poison which has strewed her place of abode with dead bodies, and brought disease to every hearth in the immediate neighborhood except her own. Herself, her husband, her children, have all gone untouched—her infant is born, is preserved, escapes likewise—the only unprotected one who resists the atmospheric plague ; the only living human being there who has come in contact with the disease and escaped its defilement, while alike unprotected by vaccination or variola."

Dr. M.'s concluding remarks are too applicable to our own country and our own condition, to be omitted. They are worthy of an intelligent and noble-hearted member of a liberal profession, and a citizen of an enlightened and christian nation.

" Smallpox, employed as a preventive, only secures the individual by endangering the community—vaccination secures the community by preserving the individual. Let us hope that the land which gave birth to vaccination will not suffer the lapse of half a century from the date of its discovery before guaranteeing to its every inhabitant the full benefit of its application. But vaccination, to be effectual, must be general ; and vaccination, to be of general benefit, must be of imperative obligation. And the lesson taught by the smallpox epidemic of the past and present years ought not to be suffered to pass without conveying all the instruction it contains to the Government and people of England. A series of statistical reports on the subject, from every parish in England, ought to be moved for in Parliament ; and an inquiry, founded upon the facts and figures afforded by these reports, should be fearlessly instituted ; and, arising out of that inquiry, a law should be devised, not for the increase of Ephesian craftsmen's gains—not for the addition to chartered monopolists of wealth and place and patronage—but a law, large, liberal, and worthy of a great, a glorious, and a free people ; a law of condescension, stooping to apprehend the case of the meanest, and to provide for the

wants of the poorest; but a law of comprehension as well, spreading wide its arms throughout the length and the breadth of the whole British empire, to maintain the blessings of health and life and beauty among tens of millions of our own name and nation, and among hundreds of millions of our fellow men and fellow subjects, of all colors and of all climes."

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 18, 1839.

A VISIT TO THIRTEEN ASYLUMS FOR THE INSANE IN EUROPE.

THE author of a pamphlet with the above title, Pliny Earle, M.D., who says in a prefatory remark at the beginning, that he made a recent tour in Great Britain and on the Continent, and that he visited asylums for the insane, situated either on the route or the immediate neighborhood, has certainly done good service. He has brought together, in a compact manner, a mass of facts, which some men would have managed to swell into a quarto. It is an admirable talent to be able to say much with a few words. In this publication Dr. Earle has certainly shown that thirty-eight pages are just as good as one hundred and thirty-eight. If some of our contemporaries would study brevity in medical matters, let them copy the very concise style of this gentleman.

Dr. Earle visited the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, at the beginning, which seems to be admirably conducted. Of the 600 who were there in 1837, more than 400 were devoted to useful occupations. In the account of the Pauper Lunatic Asylum, at Wakefield, very important statistical observations are introduced, all which are useful to those interested in similar institutions here. We want to collect all the information that can be gathered from such asylums abroad, and introduce into those of our own country all the advantages they possess. Gentlemen, therefore, who collect information like that under consideration, and scatter it amongst the people, confer a direct benefit, which every thinking man will appreciate. Considering the infancy of lunatic hospitals in the United States, we do not believe it is possible to effect better results anywhere, than they have already produced. All the reports which have been published, exhibit, in the clearest light, that the moral and medical treatment of the insane is as successfully practised here, as in any section of the old world. Still, it is not only intensely gratifying to know what and how they are doing in Europe, but it is also important to avail ourselves of any discoveries made there, in the treatment of a diseased mind.

Dr. Earle only relates what he saw—he enters into no speculations, advances no theories, and, what is better still, stops the moment he has nothing more to say. To transcribe very copiously, would be only reciting much that is already familiar to some of our readers, touching the mode of governing the asylums of England, Holland, France, &c. At the 34th page, the author commences a paper on the prevalence of insanity, full of good sense, and well calculated to impress the reader most favorably.

We should have mentioned that Dr. E.'s account of his visits has

already been published in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences. But we are glad to see it in its present form, as an increased circulation is thus secured to it, and its means of doing good proportionably enhanced.

Boston Medical Association.—At a meeting of the Boston Medical Association, at the College, on Thursday last, reports were made by committees previously appointed, which chiefly related to the existing epidemic in this city. Statistical information of considerable interest had been collected, which made it very manifest that there had not been such terrible devastation by smallpox here, as rumor had represented. Being obliged to leave before the close, we were not able to procure the reports, but presume they will be equally acceptable at another time. That upon the necessity of re-vaccination was a document that would be read with eagerness by all persons.

Dr. Haynes's Supporter.—The ingenious inventor of this instrument, thus writes to us :—" There is one fact in relation to my supporter which I ought to have mentioned before, but it did not occur to me at the time I wrote ; it is in relation to a patent. I have not a patent, neither do I want one ; I give the instrument to a liberal profession. Being a member myself of the noblest of all professions, I feel bound, if I can improve or make any discovery in the medical art, to communicate it to my brethren, freely and without reserve. I have had sixty made, fifty of which are in use in the vicinity of Concord, N. H., and so far as I have heard from them, they succeed well in pleasing the unfortunate class who are obliged to resort to their use.

" I think the price of these instruments, not only mine, but all, is a great objection. A large proportion of them are worn by the poorer classes, who are not able to pay, and I propose to have some made, if possible, worth from \$3.00 to \$10 or \$12."

Syrup of Garlic.—To THE EDITOR.—SIR,—This note is accompanied by a phial of " Syrup of Garlic," prepared from the best Mediterranean article, with pure wine vinegar.

The specimen I send you was made *three years* since, by DR. BERNARD McHENRY, corner of High and Federal streets, Boston ; and my reason for calling your attention to the article is, that at the present season the profession may be reminded of the fact that this simple prescription is a more powerful and efficacious agent in affording relief to the frequent cases of slight pulmonary irritation which pathologically characterize the present season, than any other with a knowledge of which some ten years' experience has furnished me. Your own judgment, however, will enable you to pronounce an opinion.

Respectfully yours,

A COUNTRY PHYSICIAN.

Surgical Operations.—DR. B. SMART, of Kennebunk, Me., as we learn from a newspaper of that place, has performed the operation of dividing the tendo-Achillis for the cure of club-feet, on three patients since last May. Two of the cases were double, and one single club-foot, and a cure was performed in each.

Dr. S. has also recently performed an operation for the straightening of a crooked knee, occasioned by an affection of that joint, with a curvature of the lower part of the spine, producing a contraction of the muscles connected with the hamstring tendons, the thigh and spine. The leg was bent at an angle of about 40 degrees, and had been progressing for five or six years, and for three or four, about as much crooked as at the time of the operation. The boy, nine years of age, underwent the operation for the division of the hamstring tendons, Nov. 15th. The leg was extended about two inches at the operation, and by appropriate mechanical aids, it is now (three weeks since the operation) nearly straight, and he is able to walk without pain or inconvenience, placing his heel on the ground at every step; being what he has not done for four or five years; during which time he could only bring the toes and ball of the foot to the ground.

Medical Miscellany.—A man at Litchfield, Conn., for a suicidal purpose, swallowed 60 grains of opium, which the immediate use of the stomach pump could not remove, and he very soon died.—In the month of October there were 490 cases of fever at Tampa Bay, of which 413 were intermittent and 77 remittent. All the remaining sick, of the troops, are to be sent to the hospital at New Orleans.—The family of Dr. Young, at Balize, Louisiana, nearly lost their lives by taking a decoction of an article supposed to be senna.—Mrs. Gove has commenced another course of lectures on anatomy and physiology, at the Marlboro' Chapel, in Boston.—Dr. Valentine, who is represented to be a properly-educated physician, is exhibiting himself at the Saloon of the New England Museum, in various humorous characters.—Smallpox has again appeared in several parts of Maine. Cases have also appeared in various towns in this Commonwealth. A week since, a person sickened with it in Springfield, who was supposed to have contracted it in Boston.—Dr. Gross's second volume of Pathological Anatomy has been delayed entirely on account of the plates, which were not colored at the time appointed: orders, however, are coming in to the publishers very encouragingly.—Dr. Gallup's work, notwithstanding the ill treatment meted out to it by pseudo critics, has been widely circulated. Literary abuse invariably defeats the object of the slanderer, and helps the sale of a book.—Is it true that Dr. Griscom has written a little 18mo on physical organization? If so, why has it not been sent this way?

MARRIED.—In Mexico, N. Y., E. Leffingwell, M.D., of Montague, Mass., to Miss Jane Elizabeth Jackson, of Manlius, N. Y.—In Hamilton, N. Y., Dr. Henry D. Kendall, to Miss Maria D. S. Havens.—In Gloucester, Mass., Benjamin Haskell, M.D., to Miss M. J. Calef.

DIED.—In Shutesbury, Mass., Dr. Joseph Cobb, 72.—In Natchez, Mi., Dr. Asa Frisby.—At Pensacola, of yellow fever, Dr. Wm. A. Green, of the Macedonian.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Dec. 14, 26. Males, 14—females, 12.
Of consumption, 3—hooping cough, 3—typhous fever, 1—smallpox, 9—intemperance, 1—scrofula, 1—drowned, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—infantile, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—suicide, 1—canker, 1—marasmus, 1—fits, 1—stillborn, 1.

VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any section of the United States can procure ten quills charged with PURE VACCINE VIRUS, by return mail, on addressing the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, enclosing one dollar, post paid, without which no letter will be taken from the post office. June 19

THOMPSON'S APPARATUS FOR THE CURE OF PROLAPSUS UTERI, &c.
In offering his instrument to the faculty, Dr. Thompson would call their attention to the following statements, and request all interested to examine the article in the hands of his agents.

Extract of a letter from the late Professor Eberle, to the Hon. H. L. Ellsworth, Commissioner of Patents, &c., dated

Cincinnati, May 11, 1837.—" I have carefully examined the new *Uterine Truss* invented by Dr. Robert Thompson, of Columbus, in this State, and I can confidently declare, that it is unquestionably the most perfect and useful instrument of the kind, that has ever been offered to the public. It differs essentially in its construction, from the *Uterine Truss* contrived by Dr. Hull, and is, in all respects, a superior instrument."

See, also, "The Western Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences."

Professor McCleland, of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa., declared, upon examining the instrument, that "every word of Dr. Eberle's opinion is true." Professors Channing and Hayward, of Boston, expressed like opinions.

Extract of a letter from Prof. Sewall to Prof. Bigelow, dated 18th May, 1837.—"Dr. Thompson will be pleased to show you a *Uterine Truss* which he has invented, of very superior structure to anything we have."

Extract of a letter from Prof. Peisotto to Dr. Thompson, dated

Columbus, Jan. 10, 1838.—"Your instrument, it appears to me, is formed on principles more enlarged, than those hitherto recommended for the same end, and mechanically different. I would cheerfully recommend its adoption by our professional brethren generally."

For sale in Boston by Theodore Metcalf, apothecary, No. 33 Tremont Row. Price, \$10.

June 19—ly

SCHOOL FOR MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for receiving pupils, and affording them every facility for obtaining a complete medical education. Their pupils will have access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and to surgical operations in private practice. Instruction will be given by examinations and lectures in the interval of the public lectures at the Medical College. Facilities will be afforded for the prosecution of practical anatomy. A room is provided with books, &c., for the use of the students.

JOHN C. WARREN,
JOHN B. S. JACKSON,
ROBERT W. HOOPER,
J. MASON WARREN.

Oct. 9—tf

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction. Their pupils will have regular access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. They will be admitted, also, to the practice of the House of Correction, which constantly presents a large number of important cases, and where opportunities will be afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge of compounding and dispensing medicines. They will be furnished with opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy, not inferior to any in the country. To the pupils, particularly to those in the last year of their professional studies, facilities will be afforded for acquiring a personal acquaintance with private medical and obstetric practice. Instruction by examinations or lectures will be given in the different branches of medical studies, during the interval between the public lectures of the University. Books, and a room with fire and lights, will be furnished to the students at the expense of the instructors.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK,
WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr.
WINSLOW LEWIS, Jr.

Oct. 31—eptf

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ALMANAC FOR 1840,

is now published, and may be obtained at the Journal office. This volume is much larger than the first, and its contents will be found in every respect more complete and useful. Price 75 cents. Copies are done up in paper covers to be sent by mail, the price of which is 62 1-2 cents. The postage, for less than 100 miles, will be only 6 cents—over 100 miles, 10 cents.

Dec. 11.

MEDICATED VAPOR BATHS.

PHYSICIANS are informed that they can have administered to their patients the Whitlow Vapor Baths, medicated to meet a variety of indications.

The following are the kind usually given.—Anti-inflammatory, anti-spasmodic, anti-syphilitic, antacid, anti-hemorrhagic. These baths have given evidence of their efficacy in pulmonary affections, and other diseases of the lungs, in prostration of the nervous system, in constitutional scrofula, in chronic diseases of liver, in ulcers and cutaneous eruptions on any part of the body, in neuralgia and all painful affections of the nerves. In every kind of rheumatism they have proved very beneficial. In erysipelas the vapor bath is attended with most excellent effect. One single bath will sometimes remove all the heat, swelling and itching.

Given under the superintendence of Dr. A. Gerrish, No. 14 Franklin Place, Boston.

Aug 21—tf

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR., at 194 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, post paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$2.50 after three months, or \$4.00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for \$5.00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.